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OCI No. 1957/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
21 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #283 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The OAS Commission is continuing consultations with Dominican leaders on the formation of an interim regime but so far neither of the two contending factions has accepted the OAS formula.

Yesterday UN special representative Jose Antonio Mayobre informed the OAS Commission that rebel leader Caamano had told him the proposals, with a few exceptions, seemed generally acceptable.

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Yesterday morning Caamano stated over the rebel radio that the proposals could "resolve the Dominican political problem peacefully." At the same time he stressed that the proposals were only proposals and not an imposed solution. Caamano took great pains to assure his followers that they would not be betrayed and promised that he would keep them fully informed.

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The rebel leader all but admitted having given up hope of a favorable rebel military solution when he said that if he negotiates it will be because the US intervened at the moment when his forces were about to crush the "enemies of democracy."

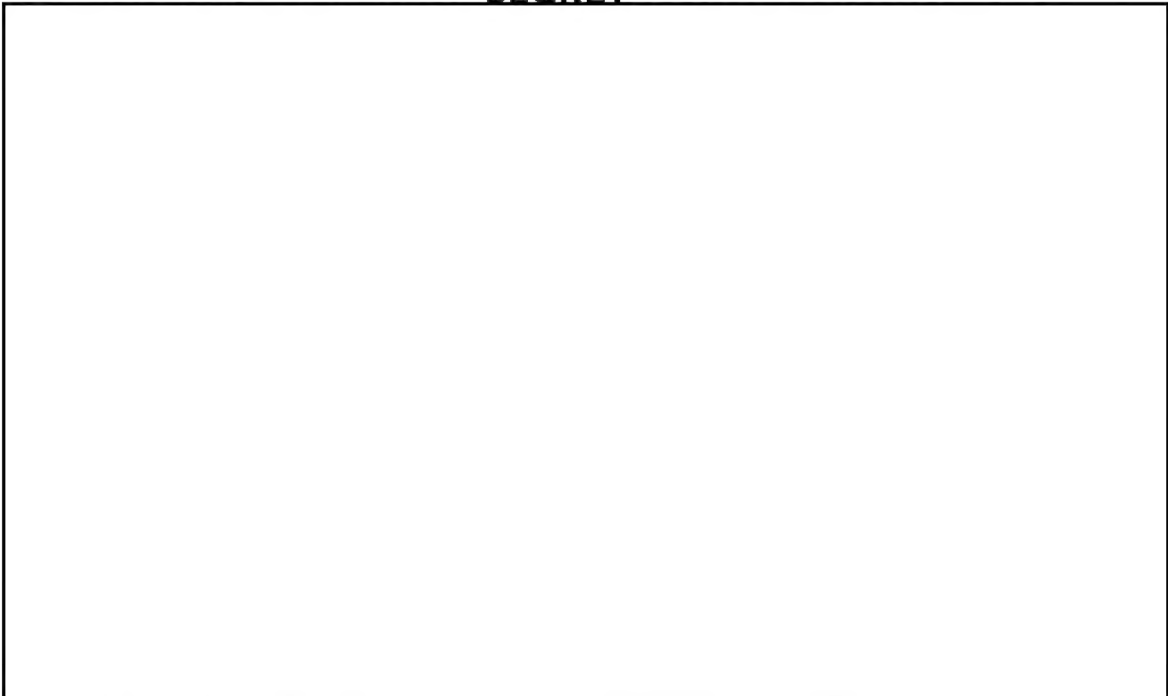
The extremist-controlled rebel newspaper Patria, which strongly attacked the OAS formula on 19 June, stated yesterday that the Caamano regime was correct in negotiating after the victory over the "Yankee invaders." There still appears to be divisions among the Communists over how to react to the proposals.

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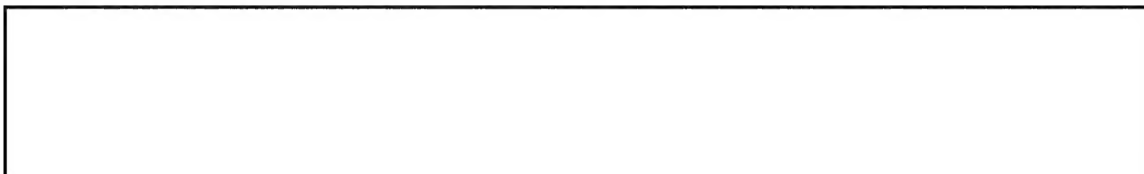
The business and civic leaders of Santiago, who feel that the election schedule proposed by the OAS calls for elections too soon, are drafting a document to be presented to the OAS Commission today. The document reportedly will suggest that a minimum of three years will be needed before meaningful elections can be held. However, a provision will be included that calls for a referendum at the end of two years to determine whether the mandate should be extended to the full three years.

Meanwhile, loyalist police and military units are alerted for possible violence in connection with the 72-hour general strike which is scheduled to begin this morning.



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So far there is little indication of sympathy for the strike despite extensive rebel preparation. The rebels probably hope to use the strike as a final bid for international sympathy and a strong UN presence in the country before negotiations begin on the OAS proposals.



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